19th November 1930]

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I will call for the information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is the existing staff sufficient to cope with the situation ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Notice."

Medical

The Headquarters Hospital, Ootacamund.

* 39 Q.—Mr. J. A. DAVIS: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the present accommodation in the Headquarters Hospital, Ootacamund, is insufficient to meet the growing needs of the station ;

(*b*) whether the Surgeon-General has submitted proposals for the erection of a suitable hospital on an adequately large site ;

(*c*) whether, pending the disposal of the Surgeon-General's recommendations, he has suspended all necessary extensions ;

(*d*) in view of the above, whether the Government will suspend the erection of the ward for chronic and incurable diseases which is to be erected in the vicinity of the present hospital buildings ; and

(*e*) whether the hospital authorities have reported that there is no space for the erection of a diphtheria ward in the hospital compound and that such patients are to be housed in a temporary hut ?

A.—(*a*) The Ootacamund Hospital has accommodation for 65 in-patients (34 for men and 31 for women). The daily average of attendance of in-patients during the last three years was as shown below :—

1927	41·90
1928	54·57
1929	60·32

(*b*) & (*c*) One of the suggestions made by the Surgeon-General in June last was the construction of the hospital on a new site, but this proposal was deferred. The Surgeon-General was of the opinion that the improvements to the Ootacamund hospital were not so urgent as to take precedence of other major schemes. In view of the magnitude of their commitments [a] to these and the existing financial stringency, Government can hold out little hope of undertaking the Ootacamund improvements at an early date.

(*d*) the Government see no reason for suspending the construction of the ward.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Will the hon. the Minister take into consideration the circumstances that, if the headquarters hospital is eventually shifted to a more suitable site, another ward for chronic and incurable cases will

[a] Commitments :—Balance on 31st March 1931—

	LAKHS.
General Hospital, Madras	28·59
Combined administrative block for General Hospital and Pathological Institute for the Medical College	10·07
Headquarters Hospital, Madura	14·23
Do. Ellore	4·86
Medical School and buildings, Guntur	3·38

have to be built in proximity to the new site and that the ward now sanctioned will be of no use as such? Further there is the question of the site for the ward being acquired on land that is very valuable. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, will not the hon. the Chief Minister again look into the matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The position is this. There was a proposal to acquire a certain site for the purposes of the new hospital. That was dropped because there was objection from the neighbouring residents. Subsequently the Surgeon-General made two proposals, i.e., (*a*) erecting the building on a new site altogether; and (*b*) to improve the buildings that already exist so as to make them better. The first proposal has been for the present deferred. So far as the improvement of the present building is concerned, the Surgeon-General has submitted proposals and it is proposed to construct a ward for infectious diseases this year within the hospital itself. Ultimately the question of removing the hospital to another site may have to be considered. Till then the improvement now proposed will have to be given effect to."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the figure representing the attendance is during the season time or during all the year round?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"It is the average attendance."

Jails

Female political prisoners in Vellore Jail.

11-45 a.m. *40 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of A, B and C class women political prisoners in Vellore Jail;

(*b*) whether any representations have been made to the Government regarding their treatment and, if so, when and by whom; and

(*c*) what steps have been taken to remedy the grievances complained of?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information;

(*b*) & (*c*) A representation was made by certain A class prisoners in the Central Jail, Vellore, that female prisoners should not be placed in C class and that female prisoners of the C class were not supplied with oil for the hair or washing materials. The criteria for classification of prisoners laid down by the Government of India do not contemplate any special classification of female prisoners. Female prisoners of the C class are being supplied with oil and washing materials.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"With regard to (*a*), the answer is 'Government have no information'. May I know whether there are any difficulties in getting the information required?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I don't think there is any great difficulty."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"Will the hon. the Law Member call for the information with a view to allay the public feeling on the matter?"